



Final Report

**18th EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING**

ECO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Oct 10,2013
Tehran-I.R Iran

Final Report of
18th Executive Committee Meeting of
ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI)
Tehran, I.R Iran - Oct 10,2013

1. The 18th Executive Committee meeting of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI), hosted by Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) was held on Oct 10, 2013 in Tehran-I.R Iran. The presidents/vice presidents of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Turkey, Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the representative of Republic of Tajikistan (Commercial Attaché), Embassies of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, Deputy Secretary General, ECO Secretariat, Vice President I.R Iran and President of I.R Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism (ICHTO), ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO TDB), I.R Iran Petroleum Ministry, I.R Iran Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Intelligent Persian Corporation (IPC), I.R Iran Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs, INC of ECO CCI as well as members of specialized committees of the ECO CCI participated in the meeting (list at Annex I).

Agenda Item-1: Inauguration of the Meeting

2. After the National Anthem of I.R Iran, verses from the Holy Koran were recited to the session;

Dr Mohammad Reza Karbasi, Secretary General of ECO CCI welcomed the participation dignitaries and delegates at the 18th Executive Committee Meeting of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI) and gave a brief account of the sessions of the previous days comprising of ECO CCI Specialized Committees Meetings.

H.E Hayri Maraslioglu, Deputy Secretary General, ECO delivered his speech in which he described the achievements of the deliberations of the specialized committees and thanked the ECO CCI for holding these events.

He further touched upon the critical role of the private sector in the ECO region which will help realize the objectives of the ECO lead by the ECO CCI as he further called for operationalization of the ECO regional agreements in this regard.

H.E A.N.S Khamoushi, President INC of ECO CCI delivered his opening speech in which he enumerated the common religious, cultural and lingual common points of the member states of ECO as an edge in order to be utilized for regional integration calling for using the capacities of the ECO region in the face of the current global economic recession.

H.E Mr Camur Ali Kopuz, Vice President Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) delivered his opening statements in which he called for promotion of intra ECO transactions and implementation of regional agreements of the ECO.

Vice President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) drew attention to the shift in global economy from the west to the east expressing that the 21st century will be the century of Asia-Pacific region. He called the member countries to remove the barriers of trade, to abolish visa, to standardize customs procedures and to facilitate regional agreements on trade facilitate. In light of newly emerging economic bloc between the US and EU he underlined the importance of the enforcement of ECOTA as soon as possible.

To be competent with the global economy and to increase the competitiveness of ECO region he called the member countries to revitalize the ancient Silk Road based on multi model transportlines. Finally, Vice President of TOBB stressed the importance of vocational training and developing the human resources in the ECO region.

H.E Zubair Ahmad Malik, President, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) addressed the session in which he mentioned the immense potentials of the ECO region with 6% of the world population.

He enumerated the ECO agreements such as ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA), ECO Business Forum (EBF), Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment (APPI) as well as ECO CCI projects such as establishment of the ECO CCI Arbitration Center, Directory of 100 Top Companies which has been earlier published

H.E Dr. Mohammad Ali Najafi, Deputy President I.R Iran and President of I.R Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism (ICHTO) delivered his opening remarks where he touched upon tourism as a bridge between cultures and alleviation of economic gap among various countries.

In economic terms also he said that global tourists' spent over US\$ 1000 b in 2012 as also in case of ECO the tourism can greatly contribute to the intra regional and extra regional collaboration to introduce ECO as a global destination which is in need of proper tools , infrastructures and standards being situated amid the ancient silk road.

Visa relaxation and simplification (ECO Visa Sticker) ,nomination of tourism attaches within the member states' embassies ,holding the ECO Tourism Exhibition (either real or virtual through the internet),commemoration of the ECO Day, establishment of a tourism network and exchange of knowhow, training of the human resources, investments promotion are some of the ways to expands the intra ECO tourism collaborations which should come true via the close collaboration of the relevant authorities of member states were among the points made by H.E Dr Najafi.

H.E Dr. Mohammad Nahavandian, President of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) and ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI); delivered his welcome address (Annex II) in which he appreciated the ECO CCI for publication of the Directory of 100 ECO Companies in four sectors and made following proposals:

- In order to remove barriers to intra-ECO trade fast implementation of ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) to address the tariff and non tariff barriers is essential
- The Visa Simplification Agreement shall be given due attention
- ECO TDB is expected to cooperate with the ECO CCI to contribute to annual 1% growth in the intra-ECO trade volume
- Regular holding of the ECO Trade Exhibitions in member states as ECO CCI supports and cooperates in holding the next ECO Trade Exhibition in Tehran.
- ECO Business Forum (EBF) should be determined in terms of venue and date as 4th EBF and Buyers Sellers Meetings in Kabul is still pending

- Tourism, apart from being an important source of income, contributes to the development of service industries :
- Making due implementations in the transit area such as :
 - Issuance of ECO Sticker Visa to transit drivers and valid in all member states,
 - Harmonization of the working hours of customs offices of member states
 - Activation of ITI/KTAI and other road and railroad corridors in the region
- Implementation of the Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment (APPI) by signatory-ratifying member states (signed by Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkey and ratified by Iran)
- The member states shall join the New York Convention of 1958 on Arbitration.
- The legal infrastructures of member states shall be reinforced in order to implement the arbitration awards.
- Member chambers may collaborate in holding the UNCITRAL workshop on Arbitration
- In the field of Energy the ECO CCI actively participated at the 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Oil/Gas and Petroleum in Dec 2013 in Tehran
Hence it is expected that the Consortium of ECO Private sector oil/gas petroleum companies be formed and fortified by the private sector,
- Regarding the Visa Sticker Scheme it is expected that the relevant authorities of ECO member states give due attention in this regard.
- It was decided based on the Iranian the Governments-Private Sectors Dialogue Council a similar council be formed in the ECO region for which a declaration endorsed by all the chambers of commerce be communicated to the highest officials of member countries in order for such a council to be established in the region and the 1st session of this council be arranged in collaboration of the ministries of foreign affairs of member states.

The ECO CCI Secretariat was entrusted to make due communications with all the member chambers in this regard less than a month from the current session of the Executive Committee

- Governments be advised by the collective efforts of the member chambers on ways and means of doubling the intra ECO trade volume

The TOBB Vice President recalled the session that Turkey has adopted a law for Public-Private Sector dialogue and Turkey is ready to share its experiences with the member states. The FPCCI president also supported the above idea.

Agenda Item-2: Adoption of the Agenda of the 18th Executive Committee Meeting

3. The agenda, already circulated to Member States and given below was adopted:

- 1- Inauguration of the Meetings

- 2- Adoption of the Agenda
- 3- Appointment of the Drafting Committee
- 4- Statement by H.E Dr Mohammad Nahavandian President, ECO CCI
- 5- Statement by heads of delegations
- 6- Activity report by Dr Mohammad Reza Karbasi, Secretary General, ECO CCI
- 7- Briefings of the meeting by the implementations made in each ECO CCI Specialized Committee by Heads of respective Committees.
- 8-Statement by Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs, I.R Iran on joint investment opportunities.
- 9-Deliberation on hosting of the First Conference on Health Tourism in ECO member states hosted by ECOCCI on 2013-2014
- 10-Brief report on the latest statues of ECO Visa Facilitation Agreement and deliberation on the Visa Sticker Scheme by Mr. Jamshid Parvizi; Senior Expert; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I.R Iran.
- 11-Report by the Representative of the ECO Secretariat on the latest implementations regarding the ECO agreements (ECOTA, TTFA, ITI Corridor, etc...)
- 12-Notes on "holding the 1st Meeting of the ECO Public and Private Sector Energy/Petrochemical Consortium/Companies in 2013-2014 in Tehran, I.R Iran" and implementation of the Decisions of the "3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum held on 6th March, 2013 in Tehran, I.R of Iran";
- 13-Briefing on Proposal to establish the ECO CCI Business Rating Program (ECO CCI BRP) by Mr Shokre Khodae; Managing Director Intelligent Persian Corporation (IPC)
- 14-Statement by Mr. Masoud Rekabdar; the chief representative of ETDB office in Tehran on the latest achievements and the ways and means of other trade facilities to the ECO business communities as well as Joint Investment in the region.
- 15-Any Other Business
- 16-Date and Venue of the Next Meeting
- 17-Adoption of the Report
- 18-Vote of Thanks

Agenda Item-3: Appointment of the Drafting Committee

4. An Open Ended Drafting Committee consisting of the Secretariat of ECO CCI, delegates/high level experts of the Member Chambers and the representative of ECO Secretariat was established for the preparation of the Draft Report of the Meeting.

Agenda Item No-4: Statement by H.E Dr Mohammad Nahavandian, President, ECO CCI

5. H, E Dr Mohammad Nahavandian, President, ECO CCI welcomed the delegates back.

Agenda Item No-5: Statement by heads of delegations

6. This item was done under Agenda item -1 .

Agenda Item No-6: Activity Report by Dr Mohammad Reza Karbasi, Secretary General, ECO CCI

7. Dr Mohammad Reza Karbasi, Secretary General, ECO CCI delivered a report on the activities of the ECO CCI Secretariat since the last meeting of the Executive Committee in Nov 2012.(Annex III)

Agenda Item No-7: Briefings of the meeting by the implementations made in each ECO CCI Specialized Committee by Heads of respective Committees

8. Heads of each specialized committee of ECO CCI delivered a briefing to the session regarding the implementations made in their respective committees since the 17th Executive Committee Meeting and the reports of respective below committees were adopted by the Executive Committee (Annex IV).
- Tourism Committee Meeting
 - Industry and Investment Committee Meeting
 - Transportation Committee Meeting
 - Arbitration Committee Meeting:
- Under this committee Head of the Arbitration committee proposed establishment of a joint committee of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey to follow the achievements and propose solutions to problems regarding the issue of arbitration in the ECO.
 - ECO CCI Secretariat was entrusted to approach member chambers to receive their opinions up to two months after the current Executive Committee Meeting in this regard and report the results and feedbacks to the next Executive Committee Meeting
- Trade Facilitation Committee Meeting
 - Women Entrepreneurs Council Meeting

Agenda Item No-8: Statement by Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs, I.R Iran on joint investment opportunities.

9. Under this agenda item Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs, I.R Iran addressed the meeting on joint investment opportunities (Annex V).

Agenda Item No-9: Deliberation on hosting of the First Conference on Health Tourism in ECO member states hosted by ECOCCI in 2013-2014

10. Under this item the participants deliberated on hosting of the First Conference on Health Tourism in ECO member states hosted by ECOCCI in 2013-2014.

Dr Karbasi Secretary General ECO CCI gave a briefing on hosting of three rounds of Islamic Countries Health Tourism Conference in Iran whose outcome has been reflected to the RPC which approved it and also certified the decision to hold the First Conference on Health Tourism in ECO member states as he said that during the first half of 2014 this conference be held in Iran .

- Executive Committee decided to hold the event in June 2014 in Esfahan/Shiraz and Sari, I.R Iran whose exact date will be communicated to the member chambers accordingly.
- TOBB offered to expedite and expert delegation to the said conference .

Agenda Item No-10: Brief report on the latest statues of ECO Visa Facilitation Agreement and deliberation on the Visa Sticker Scheme by Mr. Jamshid Parvizi; Senior Expert; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I.R Iran.

11. A brief report on the latest statues of ECO Visa Facilitation Agreement and deliberation on the Visa Sticker Scheme was read to the session under this item by Mr. Jamshid Parvizi; Senior Expert; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I.R Iran (Annex VI).
- Thus he displayed the ECO Visa Sticker at the session and proposed to form a consular committee to decide on the ECO Visa Sticker issuance

Agenda Item No-11: Report by the Representative of the ECO Secretariat on the latest implementations regarding the ECO agreements (ECOTA, TTFA, ITI Corridor, etc...)

12. A report on the latest implementations regarding the ECO agreements (ECOTA, TTFA, ITI Corridor, etc...) was read to the session by the Representative of the ECO Secretariat (Annex VII).

Agenda Item No-12: Notes on "holding the 1st Meeting of the ECO Public and Private Sector Energy/Petrochemical Consortium/Companies in 2013-2014 in Tehran, I.R Iran" and implementation of the Decisions of the 3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum held on 6th March, 2013 in Tehran, I.R of Iran;

13. Notes on "holding the 1st Meeting of the ECO Public and Private Sector Energy/Petrochemical Consortium/Companies in 2013-2014 in Tehran, I.R Iran" and implementation of the Decisions of the 3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum held on 6th March, 2013 in Tehran, I.R of Iran were delivered under this agenda item;
- ECO Secretariat informed that the said consortium meeting has been included in the 2013-2014 Calendar of Events.
 - Secretary General of ECO CCI gave an account of the communications made in this respect and suggested to adopt a suitable date for holding the 1st Meeting of the consortium in 2014 for active participation of energy operators in the region.

It was agreed that the detailed information on the 1st Meeting of the ECO Public and Private Sector Energy/Petrochemical Consortium/Companies will be sent to member states jointly by the ECO CCI and ECO Secretariat in order to absorb their optimal participation.

Agenda Item No – 13: Briefing on Proposal to establish the ECO CCI Business Rating Program (ECO CCI BRP) by Mr Shokre Khodaei; Managing Director Intelligent Persian Corporation (IPC)

14. Mr Farshid Shokrekhodaei , Managing Director of the IPC delivered the meeting the Proposal to establish the ECO CCI Business Rating Program (ECO CCI BRP) (Annex IX)

- It was recommended that the national chambers of the member countries be entrusted to provide due information of their country's companies for due rating under the ECO BRP
- The meeting approved the establishment of a subcommittee to discuss the issue in further detail and report back to the Executive Committee of the ECO CCI.

Agenda Item No – 14: Statement by Mr. Masoud Rekabdar; the chief representative of ETDB office in Tehran on the latest achievements and the ways and means of other trade facilities to the ECO business communities as well as Joint Investment in the region.

15. Mr. Masoud Rekabdar; the Chief Representative of ETDB office in Tehran delivered a report on the latest achievements and the ways and means of other trade facilities to the ECO business communities as well as Joint Investment in the region. (Annex X).

Agenda Item No-15: Any Other Business

16. The Directory on 100 Top Companies in Textile/Pharmaceuticals/Autoparts and Construction Materials compiled and prepared by the ECO CCI was distributed among the participants which was highly welcome, encouraged and taken note of at the meeting.

Agenda Item No-16: Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

17. As decided by the meeting, the 19th Executive Committee Meeting of ECO CCI will be held in IR .Pakistan in April or May 2014 as the exact dates will be communicated through collaboration of the FPCCI and the ECO CCI..

Agenda Item- 17: Adoption of the Report

18. The report of the 18th Executive Committee Meeting of ECO CCI was adopted by the participants.

Agenda Item- 18: Vote of Thanks

19. The participating Presidents/Vice Presidents/Representatives of the Member Chambers offered their thanks to Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) for the excellent arrangements made to hold this important meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to the participants during their stay in Tehran. The participants also appreciated the contribution of the ECO Secretariat for providing the necessary assistance and support.